However, pending the issue of final sanction, a Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 15.00 crores has been released to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for carrying out relief measures in the affected areas.

Increase in price of essential commodities

406. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact there has been considerable increase in the prices of essential commodites in the country;

(b) what are the comparative figures for the corresponding period during the last two years;

(c) what are the reasons for the increasing trend in the prices of essential commodities; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to bring down the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) There has been some increase in the prices of essential commodities during the past three months. However, during the same period the prices of some commodities like edible oils and wheat have moved down or have remained steady.

(b) The relevant figures are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXXXV Annexure No. 6.]

(c) The increase in the prices of essential commodities may be mainly attributed to the seasonalty factor, increase in freight and production constraints as in the case of sugar.

(d) The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities particularly the ones which are in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and improved. Some commodities are imported to supplement domestic supplies. The export of essential commodities is regulated. Measures are also being taken to enforce fiscal discipline and for keeping the aggregate liquidity under control.

Living Conditions in Resettlement Colonies in Delhi

407. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated 19th June, 1985 regarding the living conditions and lack of basic amenities in the resettlement colonies in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to improve the situation and to ensure effective coordination between the various agencies concerned for their proper development?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has already sanctioned a scheme for provision of additional facilities in the resettlement colonies, like laying of sewer and water lines for grant of individual water and sewer connections, improved roads and drains and over head and under ground tanks. The scheme is under execution with the Delhi Development Authority.

The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has reported that the position of distribution system, including street lighting in these colonies is by and large satisfactory. The power break downs which occurred in Khichripur resettlement colony due to damage to over-head lines in the heavy storm recently has been attended to and two

street lighting poles which were broken were replaced by new ones. No street lighting mains are lying on the road side.

Schooling facilities are also available in these colonies. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi is running primary school in every resettlement colony or in its neighbourhood and no child is refused admission in the schools nor is any such school being run in tents in any resettlement colony.

Besides, the Directorate of Education, Delhi Administration has been providing educational facilities and running 72 schools in these colonies.

The Slum and JJ Department of DDA being in overall charge of these colonies coordinates between various agencies regarding these colonies. This Ministry has also set up a Coordination Committee consisting of Secretary (Land & Building), Delhi Administration, Vice Chairman, DDA and Commissioner, MCD to bring about proper coordination and remove bottlenacks with a view to ensuring of optimum development by various agancies.

Delay in announcement of AI Boeing crash on AIR and Doordarshan

408. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the All India Radio and the Doordarshan announced the recent crash of ill-fated Air India's Boeing 747 "Kanishka" almost seven hours after the tradegy and that too without proper details; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) and (b) Indication on the air was first received in the news rooms of AIR and Doordarshan around 1500 hrs. (IST). The first announcement was broadcast as lead story over the AIR in the 1600 hrs news bulletin which is the scheduled bulletin immediately thereafter. The regular Doordarshan telecasts begin late in the evening and the first announcement in the form of a special bulletin was telecast on Channel-I at 7.30 p.m. and also in the regular 7.30 p.m. bulletin on Channel-II. Doordarshan also made efforts immediately to obtain visuals through the satellite. These efforts fructified late. The visuals were telecast in the 23.30 bulletin.

As and when more details of the air crash were received they were included in the subsequent news bulletins of AIR at 1700 hrs in Hindi, 1705 hrs in English, 1800 hrs in English and 1805 hrs in Hindi. The sports bulletins of 1900 hrs (Hindi) and 2000 hrs (English) and news bulletins of 1930 hrs. (Hindi) and 2115 hrs. (English) of AIR were converted into general bulletins only to carry the air crash story. Meanwhile efforts were going on to ascertain names of the passengers of the ill-fated plane and these details were broadcast at 200 hrs.

C.B.I. cases against DDA officials

409. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state.

(a) what is the number of cases involving DDA officials that were registered by the CBI for enquiries from 1971 to 1983;

(b) the number of cases where the CBI has recommended penalties stating the nature of the penalty recommended and the status of the DDA official concerned;

(c) the number of cases in which the recommended penalties were awarded to the official concerned;

(d) what are the reasons for not awarding the penalties in the remaining cases; and